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Welcome to
Season 18!

Open Door...Open Communication...

If you are new to us, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Your feedback is tremendously important to me. If you have been with WDA for a while now, you already know how much I appreciate your feedback, no matter what the situation. I can easily be reached by phone, text or email. For your convenience, feel free to contact me on my mobile phone anytime at 224-723-8979.

Thank you! – Alyson M. Thomas
Owner/Director

Mission Statement...

Our mission is to teach students PROPER technique in a FUN and POSITIVE atmosphere.

Our Commitment to You...

Our goal is to offer the best dance instruction in a wide variety of dance forms to all age groups. We strive at all times to promote an atmosphere of respect—for every student, for every instructor, for the art form itself. We feel privileged you have chosen Waterford Dance Academy and we will do our best to earn and maintain your trust.

Website & Email...

Keep yourself informed by checking your EMAIL frequently and by visiting our website Calendar. We will be communicating by EMAIL for any updates on classes, tuition notices, and other important info. The website will be updated with new information as needed. All printable newsletters will be posted online for you and will also be displayed on our waiting room bulletin boards. We will print and hand out notes as needed. Click "Forms & Flyers" on the website menu for the links. Extras are available at the front desk.

Mark Your Calendars...!

Parent Watch Week is scheduled for the week of December 4th for all classes, except for Waterford Dance Ensemble classes and Condition & Stretch.

Our *Spring Grande Finale* for Creative Dance and PreBallet with Tap will be held Saturday June 2nd. Each class which ends in the Spring will have its own free 30-minute in-studio show! Performance time for each class will be announced in January.

As recently emailed to all...Our *Spring Dance Concert* for classes ages 6 and up **will not be at CLC**. We have booked the Historic **Genesee Theater** in Waukegan! We will have our Dress Rehearsal the morning of Saturday June 9th, and ONE afternoon show on the same day. (Time TBA) The theater is 4x the size of CLC so we only need one show to accommodate our audience. Permission slips for participation will be EMAILED in mid-October. Costume payments or deposits are due November 1st.



Do we have class on those extra school holidays...?

The answer is YES! We will always have class every scheduled day, **except for the major holidays** we break for during the week of Thanksgiving 11/20-11/25, Winter Break 12/22/17 - 1/5/18, Spring Break 3/26/18- 3/31/18 and Memorial Day 5/28/18. Check the "Calendar" online for the specific dates, as it may not match your school district. **Halloween is on a Tuesday and we WILL have classes as scheduled.**

Dropping Off/Picking Up...

The Village of Lindenhurst Police Dept. has required, if you do not plan to come inside, and for the safety of the kids, to **please** pull into either the North or South parking lot to pick up or drop off your kids. Over the years, the police ticketed or gave warnings to several customers waiting on the street.

Dance Attire/Hair...

Please check the website for proper hair and class attire requirements. Ballet = BUN! ALL other classes: hair pulled back off the neck in a ponytail. We will allow until September 23rd for you to get the necessary outfits. See page 2. After that your child will not be permitted to dance if dressed improperly.

4th Annual Holiday Showcase... "JAZZed Up For The Holidays!"

Waterford Dance Academy students have the opportunity to perform in our 4th Annual Holiday Showcase! Sign-up info is available at the front desk and online. **This show is completely OPTIONAL**, but we would need a minimum of 30 dancers, age 6 -Teens to make it work. The show will be held at the Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center on **Saturday December 16th at 7:30pm**, with a Dress Rehearsal at the Civic Center, on the same day, from 2:00pm-6:00pm. General rehearsals will be held at WDA for 10 weeks, on Friday evenings beginning October 6th. The participation fee for dancers in *Basics levels* is \$185 (Basics rehearsal is Fri 5:30-7:00pm) The participation fee for dancers in *Intermediate 1 – Advanced* is \$220 (rehearsal times vary, but dancers at this level must choose a minimum of 2 specific styles and times that work best) WDE members rehearsal times vary (Holiday Show hand out has all details regarding WDE members) Participants will receive a "JAZZed Up For The Holidays!" T-shirt after rehearsals are underway. We will sell tickets to the show in advance, which will be \$7/person. ALL participants' families will receive **2 complementary tickets and online access to the digital recording of the show, by Welsh Studios.**



Do you need shoes, tights or apparel?

WDA sells tights at the front desk, along with a small selection of in-stock leotards, skirts and dance shorts. Shoes are by special order, just try on our sample sizes for proper fit. If you have a certain color leotard you wish to order, we can help you with that as well! We keep size samples on hand for leotards, offered in tank or cami-strap styles, available in 7 beautiful colors! Orders are typically placed twice per month and payment is due upfront at the time your order is placed at the desk. Orders typically arrive within a week.

Parents, please go over this final section with your kids. What's etiquette? Well, etiquette is another French word, like so many terms in dance, but plainly and simply, it means having good manners and following rules for the safety and well-being of everyone. We want to create the best environment in which all students can learn the art of dance. We want to have classes where students build self-esteem and have good peer relationships as well as learn technique and performance style in a secure environment. This is best accomplished through good classroom etiquette.

- ✓ Proper attitude and behavior is ALWAYS expected in class. Students should show their respect by giving the teacher their undivided attention, and by being thoughtful and considerate of fellow classmates. ALL instructors will be using the "3 strikes, TIME OUT" method of keeping behavior in check. This is how it works...if a student, of ANY age/level, displays behavior which is disruptive, distracting or negative, or is overly social in class (too chatty) a single warning is given. The next incident in the same class results in 1 strike. If a student gets to 3 strikes, he/she will be put in a time-out, sitting on the studio floor. If there is a repeating pattern of this behavior, a phone call to home will be made with an explanation of the situation. The student *may* be subject to removal from our program if changes in behavior are not made immediately.
- ✓ When a teacher corrects you while executing a movement, understand this is his/her job! The teacher is not "picking on you". Listen to what he/she has to say, and **always** apply it to what you are doing. For further improvement, you should also pay close attention to corrections given to **other** students and **always** apply them to yourself. Doing this will help you progress much faster!
- ✓ **Please adhere to the required class attire.** Waterford Dance Academy and its staff would like to remind you of the importance of this. NO extra "junk" over your dance clothes. Covering up with baggy clothes makes it harder for your teacher to do her job and it just make you look sloppy. If you don't know what you are supposed to wear, please refer to the Class Attire page of the Waterford Dance Academy website. Ballet students must wear a BUN if their hair is longer than chin-length. Regardless, ALL students must have their hair pulled away from the face and off the neck. We stock the proper tights and a small selection of leotards, skirts and jazz pants. **We can also order you the correct shoes AND attire if needed. Just try on our samples to determine the right size. Shoe/Attire orders must be paid for at the time you are fitted. The last day of each month to place an order is the 1st and 15th. Delivery time is less than 1 week once I place your order with them AND our prices are low!**
- ✓ **Please be on time.** Not only is it disruptive and annoying to your teacher and classmates, but it is also putting you at risk for injury. The first 1/3 - 1/2 of each class is a "warm-up" period, which needs to be taken seriously. If a student is more than 10 minutes late he/she will be asked to sit and observe the class.
- ✓ Please use the washrooms **before or after** class. Understandably, preschoolers will be the exception here, as they may have to go during class, but try to have them go **before** each class anyway. Teachers / Assistants are not permitted to take students to the bathroom. If your child cannot go on his/her own, you **MUST** stay for the duration of class.
- ✓ There is absolutely **no chewing gum** permitted in class. **ONLY water bottles** are permitted inside the dance studio. All other food and drinks must be kept in the waiting room.
- ✓ **Girls, please use the lockers in the restrooms to store all belongings, coats, shoes, etc.** Leave valuables at home! WDA will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items. Check the lost and found bin as needed.
- ✓ If a problem arises in class or out of class, please let the teacher know so that proper measures can be taken to rectify the situation. We want your experience to be rewarding and fulfilling in every way!
- ✓ **Last, but not least, learn, have fun and give 110% of yourself in every dance class!**